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FCC PROPOSES ELECTRONIC ACCESS TO RATE INFORMATION

On-line Filing of Tariffs Would Provide Immediate Access to Public, Ease Burden on Carriers

Washington, D.C. – In an effort to streamline access to information for consumers as well as industry, the Federal Communications Commission today proposed completing the transition to electronic filing of <u>tariffs</u>, which disclose the rates, terms and conditions set by certain carriers.

The proposal is part of the FCC's broader Data Innovation Initiative to modernize and streamline how the agency collects, uses, and disseminates data. Announced last month, the Data Innovation Initiative is part of a comprehensive reform effort that is improving the agency's fact-based, data-driven decision-making. Moving toward electronic filing whenever possible reduces costs and makes information more available and accessible, not only saving time and money but also making it easier for citizens to participate in their government.

While electronic tariff filing has been mandatory for dominant carriers since 1998, non-dominant carriers still file by paper and computer diskette. Under the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking adopted today, non-dominant carriers would file their tariffs using the FCC's existing <u>Electronic Tariff Filing System</u>. The Notice also proposed standardizing tariff filings to ease review by the public and the FCC.

On-line filing of tariffs will afford the public and the FCC with immediate access to new tariffs filed by non-dominant carriers, providing more opportunity for review and comment. The change will also reduce the burden on carriers and FCC staff associated with filing and administering paper records.

Action by the Commission, June 15, 2010, by Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (FCC 10-127). Chairman Genachowski, Commissioners Copps, McDowell, Clyburn, and Baker. Chairman Genachowski issuing a separate statement.

Docket No.: 10-127

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